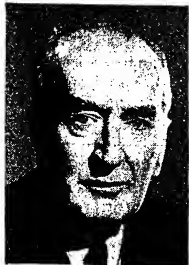


CLOSE on the heels of the Suez crisis I note that control of the Dardanelles will soon enter a new phase. On November 9, 1936, the Montreux Convention, which governs the use of the straits, was formally ratified.

This Convention was to remain in force for twenty years, but in fact it will continue in operation until one of the high contracting parties hands a formal denunciation to the French Government.

It is a long time since we have heard anything of Russia's age-



LORD BRUCE

old cry of "Teplaya voda"—a "warm water" outlet to the oceans—but when Mr. Molotov was Foreign Minister, attacks on the Convention were frequent.

Indeed most of the ten signatory nations—the principal user countries plus Japan and Australia—have suggested amendments for the peaceful discussion of which there is still plenty of time since the Convention operates for a further two years after a denunciation.

Lord Bruce, of Melbourne is the only Montreux veteran who remains in public life. It seems right to salute him at this time for having signed one of the few vital international

treaties that have survived the past twenty turbulent years.

Blundell's Battle

FOR the last five years Michael Blundell has been the dominant white politician in Kenya. Now his position is in jeopardy, and on Thursday the European electors of his aptly named Rift Valley constituency will decide whether he returns to the Legislative Council.

In any community this broad-shouldered Yorkshire-born farmer would be a considerable personality. He talks with the headlong persuasiveness of a missionary eager for converts; and before he joined Kenya's multi-racial Government as Minister Without Portfolio he was the acknowledged leader of the settlers.

At these elections Michael Blundell is the prime target of those who do not like multi-racial government. His opponent, Major Brian Roberts, is the leader of the faction that believes in a form of apartheid. When I talked to Michael Blundell before the campaign began he was pessimistic about his chances, and many competent observers on the spot believe that the election will be an uncommonly close-run affair.

Western Faith

FOR the last twelve months an eminent group of intellectuals has been trying to write "A dramatic restatement of the Western faith" in 300 words. Georges Bidault launched this project and its most active participants include Barbara Ward from this country, André Maurois from France, Reinhold Niebuhr and Herbert Agar from America, and Otto Dibelius,

head of the 'United German Evangelical Church.

Their efforts will be debated when the Congress of European-American Associations meets at Vienna this week. Both Miss Ward and M. Maurois have produced striking drafts, but both broke through

the rigid space barrier with essays of close on 3,000 words.

In setting such narrow limits Georges Bidault may have been inspired by the knowledge that Lincoln's Gettysburg address takes 267 words and the Ten Commandments 298. But neither of these pronounce-

ments was produced by a committee.

Black Factory

ONE of Russia's biggest forgery factories has been unearthed in West Berlin and the two chief printers are under arrest. But the master

mind, Herr X, escaped the police raid. Herr X is known to be a former Displaced Person who ran Berlin's black market after the war and today lives in great luxury in East Berlin.

Included in the haul were a thousand West German passports, two hundred West German driving licences and scores of passports from most of the countries of Europe. Rubber stamps of every police and frontier post in Europe were also found, together with certain material which may have a bearing on the Burgess-Maclean affair.

Interpol has been called in by the West German police and Scotland Yard will soon be hearing how seriously the security of British passport routines has been compromised.

Symphonic Money

WITH his bright sports coat and flamboyant tie Mr. Ted Anstey, who was once a clarinetist in the Royal Marines, might easily pass as the leader of a rock and roll combination. At the moment, however, his claim to musical fame rests on the fact that he is the trade union official responsible for pressing the largest pay claim ever put forward for musicians in symphony orchestras.

A rank-and-file obstol would now draw £11 10s. for an average 25-hour week, while one of the orchestra's principals would have a minimum salary of £16. The Musicians' Union wants an increase of £3 10s. a week for all grades, with special allowances for travelling time. It has been estimated that these increased payments would cost the Hallé an extra £40,000 a year.

Subsidy Seeking

"Our claim is still for considerably less than a 100 per cent. increase over pre-war," said Mr. Anstey with a righteous smile, "and we can no longer agree that our members should subsidise the cultural life of this country... Look at Germany. They've got sixty-eight State-supported orchestras... We ought to get together with management and go to see the Government."

Tomorrow Mr. Anstey can expect to receive the formal reply of the Orchestral Employers' Association. Then the public discord will begin.

Music to Moscow

WHEN Gregor Piatigorsky, the great 'cellist, heard that the Boston Symphony Orchestra was going to Russia he asked their manager to take a present to his parents. It was

an accordion, and this was down in with the orchestra's eight and a half tons of baggage.

His parents, who are both over eighty, were found in Moscow and the accordion was handed over in the most moving little ceremony of the whole tour.

Personal Paradise

EACH of us has his personal concept of heaven. To Sydney Smith, whose Selected Letters have just been published by the Oxford University Press, it was "eating pâté de foie gras to the sound of trumpets."

I shall always remember the late Gilbert Russell, whose turn of mind was not unlike Sydney Smith's, for his version.

One night at dinner at Mottisfont Abbey, which he and his wife, Maud Russell, so wonderfully restored, he said: "Heaven is a place where I shall be forever driving in an open Rolls-Royce along a beautiful highway lined with cheering crowds. From time to time I shall stop and hand out some medals and say a few kind words and the cheering will redouble. Then I shall drive on."

Radar News

THE Andres Doria-Stockholm collision set people talking about the possible interaction of human error and electronic uncertainty.

A step to reduce the human factor in operating radar is an American invention called the Raytektor. This apparatus "watches" the radar screen and sounds a warning buzzer when an object shows up. It rejects false targets such as occasional high-wave crests.

The apparatus was invented by a technician called Richard Miller to overcome "radar hypnotics"—the mental numbness induced by prolonged staring at an empty screen.

Miller maintains that the Raytektor itself is not subject to human frailty. If it breaks down it buzzes until someone mends it.

Lifewoman

LADY JEANNE CAMPBELL, daughter of the Duke of Argyll by his first marriage and granddaughter of Lord Beaverbrook, is working for "Life" magazine in New York. She applied for a post as "Miss Jeanne Campbell," without divulging her newspaper connections, and was appointed to the library.

There she works under the head librarian—an attractive and highly intelligent coloured

girl—and earns £30 a week, the equivalent of spending power of about £15 here.

To supplement this substantial wage she works overtime at night and at week-ends—much to the astonishment of those of her colleagues who have not read her grandfather's books on how to succeed.

Glass Pictures

GEMMAIL (coloured from the French for gem and enamel) is a revolutionary method for making pictures in coloured glass and is the invention of Comte Robert Malherbe, descendant of the poet.

The first gemmail shown in Paris last year caused no great stir, but gemmail designed by Picasso, Braque, Vlamincok and Cocteau have been so much admired that there is now great enthusiasm in France for the new medium.

Basically gemmail is the superimposing of fragments of



A. PICASSO GEMMAIL

coloured glass in layers temporarily fixed with a very light paste. The completed gemmail is then immersed in a bath of transparent enamel and "fired" like ceramic.

Great brilliance and depth of colour are achieved, together with a colour range of more than 5,000 nuances, and the result is a glass picture with qualities of relief, plasticity and luminosity claimed to be everlasting.

Two platforms of the new Paris Metro "Franklin-Roosevelt" will be decorated with gemmail and the prospect of a bureaucratic gemmailitis being given a free hand with the new medium is causing trepidation on the Left bank.

Russian for Crash

THE Soviet Union has always been chary of reporting air, rail, or road crashes. These, it seems, are a capitalist phenomenon. At last week's British Road Federation Conference, the Soviet delegate, Dr. A. E. Stramentov, referred to accidents as "unpleasant incidents of conflict between public and transport."